

Message Text

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21

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R 131315Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4577

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0759

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, MILI

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON LEE KUAN YEW-MARCOS
MEETING

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 13, PHILIPPINE AM-
BASSADOR DELFIN GARCIA PASSED ON FOLLOWING COMMENTS CONCERNING
LEE KUAN YEW-MARCOS MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN SINGAPORE
JANUARY 27-29:

2. GENESIS: MEETING TOOK PLACE AT LEE KUAN YEW'S INITIATIVE.
LEE HAD OFFERED TO STOP IN MANILA FOR TWO DAYS ENROUTE BACK TO
SINGAPORE FROM HONG KONG VISIT, BUT MARCOS HAD RECALLED THAT
HE OWED SINGAPORE A RETURN VISIT (LEE HAD PAID OFFICIAL VISIT
TO MANILA IN 1974) AND PROPOSED INSTEAD THAT HE SHOULD GO TO
SINGAPORE.

3. PURPOSE AND ATMOSPHERICS. ACCORDING TO GARCIA, DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN LEE AND MARCOS WENT VERY WELL. AS HE PUT IT, THERE
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ARE VERY FEW POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND

LEE AND MARCOS FOUND THEMSELVES IN CLOSE AGREEMENT IN MOST MATTERS. PURPOSE OF TALKS WAS TO WORK OUT COMMON APPROACH ON ACHIEVING CONCRETE RESULTS AT ASEAN SUMMIT IN BALI.

4. CONTENT. SUBJECTS DISCUSSED FOLLOWED VERY CLOSELY MATTERS OUTLINED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT (COPIES BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY MANILA). HOWEVER, A NUMBER OF MATTERS WERE TOUCHED UPON WHICH WENT BEYOND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE:

(A) THE TWO LEADERS AGREED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE U.S. STAY ON IN THE REGION AS A STABILIZING INFLUENCE AND THAT CONTINUED FOREIGN INVESTMENT WAS NECESSARY TO THE ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC GROWTH;

(B) THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO SECURE AGREEMENT OF THE BIG POWERS ON ASEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM, AND NEUTRALITY.

5. SECURITY. ASEAN SECURITY MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED, INVOLVING AREAS WHERE MEMBER NATIONS COULD ENGAGE IN COOPERATIVE SECURITY EFFORTS, E.G. MALAYSIA-THAILAND AND MALAYSIA-INDONESIA. IN ADDITION, AS FAR AS SINGAPORE AND THE PHILIPPINES WERE CONCERNED, POLITICAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON TRAINING OF SINGAPORE A-4 PILOTS AT CUBI POINT IN THE PHILIPPINES. ARRANGEMENT, OF COURSE, INVOLVED BRINGING IN U.S. ONCE PRELIMINARY DETAILS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT.

6. PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC AGREEMENT AT BALI SUMMIT. APPARENTLY REFLECTING IMPATIENCE OF TOP LEADERS REGARDING INDONESIAN OBJECTIONS TO FREE TRADE ZONE, GARCIA SPOKE OF UNHAPPINESS ON THEIR PART OVER INDONESIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO AGREE EVEN TO SUCH A MEASURE AS FREEZE OF EXISTING ASEAN TARIFF LEVELS OR, EVEN MORE DESIRABLE, AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD FIVE PERCENT TARIFF REDUCTION. FAILING THIS, CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS IN FOODSTUFFS AND PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC COMMODITIES WOULD NOT BE REACHED UNTIL AFTER THE BALI SUMMIT WHEN ECONOMIC MINISTERS NEXT MEET.

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING DEGREE OF MARCOS' INTEREST IN SINGAPORE'S EXPERIENCES IN TAKING OVER FORMER BRITISH CONFIDENTIAL

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NAVAL BASE AT SEMBAWANG, GARCIA NOTED THAT MARCOS WAS, AS STATED IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE, VERY INTERESTED IN WAY THAT THIS FACILITY HAD BEEN COMMERCIALIZED. IN FACT, SEMBAWANG GENERAL MANAGER HAS TOLD US THAT MARCOS WANTED COPIES OF FORMAL UK-GOS AGREEMENT, WHICH HE POLITELY DECLINED TO GIVE. IN GARCIA'S OPINION, THOUGH, MARCOS HAD NO INTENTION OF "KICKING U.S. OUT" OF SUBIC BUT WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL FACILITIES IN SAME GENERAL AREA. HOLDRIDGE

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